

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS/ EYES ONLY FOR DREXLER FROM LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: COCAINE AND THE CORRUPTION ISSUE

ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS A MEMORANDUM THAT I SENT
TO THE SECRETARY LAST NIGHT. BEGIN TEXT:

TO: THE SECRETARY

FROM: ARA - WILLIAM H. LUERS

SU : COLOMBIA: COCAINE AND THE CORRUPTION ISSUE

AS YOU REQUESTED I ATTENDED A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON
AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE COLOMBIA/COCAINE PROBLEM. PETER
BOURNE, PETER BENSINGER, DEA, AND MATHEA FALCO WERE THE
MAIN BRIEFERS. MOST OF THE MATERIAL COVERED YOU KNOW.

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MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND CORRUPTION:
WHICH MINISTERS AND HIGH OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED AND HOW
MUCH DOES LOPEZ MICHELSEN KNOW HIMSELF. THE PRESIDENT
WANTED TO KNOW WHAT INCENTIVES LOPEZ MICHELSEN WOULD HAVE
TO DEAL WITH THE CORRUPTION ISSUE. PETER BENSINGER AND
OTHERS REPLIED THAT IT WAS MAINLY COLOMBIA'S INTERNATIONAL

REPUTATION WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY BRING LOPEZ TO ADDRESS CORRUPTION.

AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN:

-- A LETTER WILL BE PREPARED FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO LOPEZ WHICH IS "NOT TIMID" AND INFORMS LOPEZ THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS KNOWLEDGE OF HIGH LEVEL CORRUPTION. THE PRESIDENT WANTS THE LETTER TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE ON CORRUPTION AND REFER TO THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF THE GOOD NAME OF COLOMBIA BEING DAMAGED. THE LETTER WILL ALSO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL JOINT COMMISSION TO DEVELOP MAXIMUM COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON TRAFFICKING AND CORRUPTION.

-- THE PRESIDENT WILL WRITE HIS OWN ADDENDUM TO THE LETTER, AND SEAL AND ADDRESS IT HIMSELF FOR DELIVERY TO LOPEZ ON WEDNESDAY BY BOURNE AND FALCO.

-- AT THE MEETING LOPEZ WILL BE INFORMED THAT THE DECISION ON THE HELICOPTERS WOULD BE MADE FOLLOWING BOURNE'S REPORT BACK TO THE PRESIDENT (BOURNE'S RECOMMENDATION).
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DATION IS THAT THEY ARE SUCH A SMALL MATTER THAT WE SHOULD GO AHEAD AND PROVIDE THEM SOON).

-- WE SHOULD GET CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE UN DRUG FUND TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO LOPEZ.

-- THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND PREPARED TO GIVE IT CONSISTENT HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION.

-- DR. BOURNE ALSO SAID THAT AT A LATER DATE WE MIGHT CONSIDER OTHER TOUGHER MEASURES INCLUDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, SEARCHES AND SEIZURES OF COLOMBIAN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT AND IMMEDIATE BOARDING OF SOME PRIVATE COLOMBIAN VESSELS WHO NOW HAVE 24 HOURS TO REGISTER ON DOCKING IN THE U.S. PORTS.

-- THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE RECEIVES THE CREDENTIALS OF THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR FRIDAY WILL BE PREPARED TO REINFORCE THE POINTS BOURNE MAKES TO LOPEZ ON WEDNESDAY AND FOLLOW UP ON THE BOURNE/FALCO VISIT. END TEXT. VANCE

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